



COPS Fact Sheet

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS Tribal Resources

Background

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) created a series of programs to meet the needs of law enforcement in Native American communities. These programs include the Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP), Tribal Hiring Renewal Grant Program (THRGP), Tribal Mental Health and Community Safety Initiative (TMHCSI), and the Tribal Court Pilot Program (TCPP). COPS Native American programs address quality-of-life issues as well as a comprehensive list of law enforcement expenses, including hiring and training new community policing officers, training existing forces, and purchasing new equipment, technology, vehicles, and more. COPS has awarded more than \$258 million since 1995 to help Native American communities, many of which have limited resources and suffer from high rates of crime and violence, hire more than 1,800 new community policing officers. In FY05, COPS awarded over \$18 million through TRGP to bolster community policing and homeland security within Native American communities.

"We will modernize our computer systems and buy equipment for vehicles, add two officers and provide more training. For a small department these grants are essential."

*POLICE CHIEF RICK NORRIS
WASHOE TRIBE (NV)*

Tribal Resources Grant Program Funding Provisions

COPS considers grant requests that reflect the most serious law enforcement needs of an agency that are not funded with state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs funds and are linked to the implementation or enhancement of community policing. Funding provisions have included three years of entry-level salary and benefits for newly hired, additional law enforcement officers, law enforcement training, basic standard issue equipment, uniforms, technology, and police vehicles. Training includes basic and specialized police training at a Regional Community Policing Institute, a state academy, or the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, as well as grants management and computer training.

Departments were also encouraged to request funding for law enforcement equipment and technology, such as police vehicles, computer hardware and software, mobile data terminals, and dispatch and communication systems. Tribes were encouraged to request equipment that would increase their ability to collect crime data.

TRGP covers a maximum federal share of 75 percent of total project costs, including basic law enforcement training and equipment, vehicles, and technology. The program includes a local cash match requirement of 25 percent of total project costs. Waivers of the local match requirement may be granted only on the basis of documented severe fiscal hardship. Waiver requests must be made at the time of application.

Initiative to Improve Law Enforcement in Tribal Communities

TRGP is part of a larger federal initiative. For the last seven years, the Departments of Interior and Justice have worked together to improve law enforcement in tribal communities. In FY 2005, funds were appropriated to several Department of Justice (DOJ) agencies for this initiative, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the COPS Office. COPS coordinates with these agencies as well as with the Office of Law Enforcement Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to ensure that limited resources are not spent on duplicative efforts.

Requirements

Federal regulations require that financial assistance provided by the federal government be monitored to ensure that funds are used properly. In addition to the retention requirement that applies to all COPS hiring programs, supplanting is prohibited under this program. Any use of TRGP funds is required to be in addition to, and not in lieu of, previous funding commitments for law enforcement staffing, training, and/or equipment.

Contact COPS

For more information on TRGP please contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

COPS offers a variety of publications, products, and training opportunities to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS publications and products offer insights and experiences from others in the field addressing specific problems including:

- ✓ Creative Partnerships: Supporting Youth, Building Communities
- ✓ Law Enforcement Technology Guide: How to plan, purchase and manage technology (successfully!)
- ✓ Bringing Victims into Community Policing
- ✓ Promising Strategies from the Field: Spotlight on Sheriffs

COPS also sponsors training opportunities and conferences to give law enforcement professionals an opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas. All COPS publications and training opportunities are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.